

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: PINT, IT,YO
SUBJECT: NOTES FROM THE ITALIAN-YUGOSLAV FRONTIER

REF: TRIESTE 0026 AND 02228, 12/7/76

1. POST-TITO YUGOSLAVIA: DURING RECENT CONVERSATION WITH PRINCIPAL OFFICER, ONE OF TRIESTE'S MOST INFLUENTIAL SLOVENE UNION (SU) LEADERS EXPRESSED HIS UNEASINESS ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR A POST-TITO YUGOSLAVIA. HIS REMARKS ARE OF SOME INTEREST SINCE THE SAME LEADER ONLY A FEW MONTHS AGO SEEMED RATHER OPTIMISTIC ABOUT YUGOSLAVIA. AS HE PRESENTLY SEES IT, MACEDONIA IS MORE THAN EVER A DRAG ON THE REST OF THE REPUBLICS, CREATING TENSIONS PARTICULARLY WITH THE MORE DEVELOPED REPUBLICS SUCH AS SLOVENIA. AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAID, CROATIAN-SERBIAN SQUABBLING CONTINUES UNABATED.

2. IN SOME RESPECTS, HE SAID, THE SOVIET THREAT FORCES NOMINAL COOPERATION AMONG THE VARIOUS GROUPS OUT OF FEAR OF THE RUSSIANS. AS FOR SLOVENIA--GENERALLY
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CONSIDERED THE MOST ECONOMICALLY DEVELOPED OF THE REPUBLICS, HE SEEMED TO THINK, ALBEIT RATHER UN-REALISTICALLY, THAT IT COULD STAND APART FROM THE OTHERS AND THEIR FEUDS. IN PARTICULAR, HE SEEMED TO COUNT HEAVILY ON WHAT HE CALLED SLOVENIA'S WESTERN CARD, I.E., A COMMON FRONTIER WITH A NATO COUNTRY.

3. OSIMO: THE AGREEMENT WITH YUGOSLAVIA CONTINUES TO GENERATE SOME LOCAL HEAT BUT FOR THE MOST PART TRIESTE HAS SWALLOWED THE BITTER PILL. OSIMO'S OPPONENTS AND OTHERS ARE NOW FOCUSING ON THE FREE INDUSTRIAL ZONE PLANNED FOR THE CARSO UNDER THE TREATY. TRIESTE UNIVERSITY RECTOR, "ITALIAN NOSTRA," AND LOCAL ECOLOGY GROUPS ARE NOW PUTTING TOGETHER A PROPOSAL TO CREATE A NON-POLLUTING INDUSTRIAL/RESEARCH PARK IN THE AREA IN PLACE OF THE INDUSTRIAL ZONE. TRIESTE ENGINEER TAMBURINI RECENTLY SPENT SEVERAL WEEKS IN THE UNITED STATES AS A VOLUNTARY VISITOR TO STUDY STERLING PARK, A RESEARCH TRIANGLE, ETC. HE HAS RETURNED ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT WHAT THE UNITED STATES HAS DONE IN THIS FIELD AND WITH WARM WORDS OF PRAISE FOR THE EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE GIVEN HIM BY THE DEPARTMENT (CU/IVP) IN HELPING HIM WITH APPOINTMENTS, ETC. TRIESTE UNIVERSITY AS A RESULT OF LINKS ESTABLISHED WITH THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION VIA THE CONSULATE AND AIA WILL MOST LIKELY HOST A CONFERENCE AT BELLAGIO NEXT SPRING ON SUCH RESEARCH PARKS.

4. REGIONAL/POLITICAL COOPERATION: REGIONAL CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC (DC) LEADERS ARE CONTINUING TO PRESS FOR BROADER TRANS-FRONTIER POLITICAL COOPERATION WITH NEIGHBORING SLOVENIA. MIJA RIBICIC, PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIALIST ALLIANCE -- THE UMBRELLA GROUP OF VARIOUS YUGOSLAV POLITICAL/SOCIAL GROUPS OTHER THAN THE LEAGUE OF COMMUNISTS -- IS DUE TO VISIT TRIESTE APRIL 21-22. RIBICIC WAS BORN IN TRIESTE, IS CONSIDERED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COLLEGIAL PRESIDENCY. VISIT CALLS FOR MEETINGS RUNNING THE GAMUT OF ALL-REGIONAL POLITICAL LEADERS ON BROAD SUBJECTS, BUT POST-TITO YUGOSLAVIA WILL BE FOREMOST IN DC MINDS.

5. COMMENT: AFTER SOMNOLENT PERIOD, ITALIAN-YUGOSLAV BORDER SEEMS TO BE PERKING UP A BIT. SPECULATION ABOUT A POST-TITO YUGOSLAVIA IS A POWERFUL STIMULUS IN THIS REGARD. ALSO OSIMO HAS CREATED A FRAMEWORK FOR BROAD REGIONAL POLITICAL/ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND IT IS NOW UP TO LOCAL DC LEADERS TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY LEADERSHIP TO GAIN THE MAXIMUM POLITICAL/ECONOMIC BENEFITS FROM THE TREATY FOR TRIESTE IN PARTICULAR AND ITALY IN GENERAL. MOEN

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